

Mahon Dispatch #07 08.28.10 Praising God for your answered prayers...
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Message of the week: **Marriage Covenant Seminar Lecture Three – The Marriage Covenant and the Wife -**

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=213102036204>

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In this dispatch...

- I. Praise God - your prayers at work as we arrive in Kenya
- II. Your Answered Prayers - Highlights of our time in Cameroon...
- III. Prayer Requests: As you pray please allow the accompanying passage from the Word of God to guide your prayers. Call upon the Lord to make these passages real in the lives of those who attended the conference and received the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God.

John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

A. God would conserve the fruit of the conference

John 15:16 " You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."

B. God would watch over and protect the sowing of His word

Mark 4:14 "The sower sows the word."

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

C. God would protect the conferees from satan

Mark 4:15 "These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them."

D. They would be preserved from and withstand worldly persecutions

Mark 4:16-17 "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary;

then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away."

E. They would be preserved from and withstand worldly temptations

Mark 4:18-19 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."

F. Instead the Word of God would fall on good soil, bearing fruit for years to come

Mark 4:20 "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

G. All fruit would be as a result of the work of God

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Praise God – your prayers at work as we arrive in Kenya

As I write this e-mail we are safe in Nairobi, Kenya. The check-in, the wait, the flight and the arrival went so smoothly that the only explanation is that you our prayer warriors made the way straight before us. God also provided us with a ministry. Ever since I first heard of the concept of "Divine Appointments" in Bible study at the Un. of Texas I have prayed each morning that the Lord would keep me alert. This is taken from Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."*

As you know that whenever we see a service man or woman we give them a Starbucks gift card, a prayer and offer to send their unit care packages during their deployment. Well on this trip something different happened to us. A US Marine Corpse Colonel came up and introduced himself. He said we looked very familiar and asked our name. The best we can make out is that many of the hundreds of boxes that we (and you) have sent out over the last five years have come to his attention during his four tours of duty in the Afghan and Iraqi theaters. Yes, I gave him the exhortation that churches all over America pray every Sunday for him and his Marines; yes, I took his hand and prayed earnestly for his safety, the safety of his Marines and for the ministry of our boxes; yes, I got his card and when I get home I will send his office staff boxes of goodies from home as well as Bibles and Christian reading material. (If you want to beat me to the punch, email me and I will send you his address). Afterwards he was obviously moved and shared with me that his father was a Baptist minister. We had a brief time of fellowship before being called to our plane.

(A side note: I am often concerned at the indifference many of the international churches I visit exhibit towards their military. I would like to encourage you, if you live outside the US, to adopt one of your nations military units near you and to send these young men care packages of every day supplies, treats, Christian reading material and New Testaments.)

Your Answered Prayers – Highlights of our time in Cameroon...



1_Proclaiming the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God – This is the ministry to which God has called us. Jesus Christ prayed in John 17:17, *“Sanctify them in truth, Thy Word is truth.”* It is our firm conviction that the Word of God is the primary tool of the ministry. It is the weapon of choice of God the Holy Spirit and as such is our primary if not sole tool. “O Lord, bless now Your Holy Word...” is the earnest prayer of our heart and how we begin each one on one, Bible study or large group meeting.



2_Delivering Bibles, Bible study aids and Bible reference works to the Lord’s servants – Here Eleanor presents Noella, wife of the director of the navigators of Cameroon with her personal copy of the MacArthur study Bible. During the two weeks we were in Cameroon we delivered over 50 study Bibles to ministers and ministry leaders (including McArthur Study Bibles translated into French). For many the worth of these Bibles exceeded their monthly salaries. In addition scores of French New Testaments, Bible reference works and Bible study aids were handed out. Not haphazardly but those receiving them were carefully screened and the precious volume was personally placed in their hands by ourselves or a ministry leader. Not only this over 150 CD discs (the result of the ministry of my brother in law Jon Bucher) containing all the messages preached in Cameroon as well as Bible studies were handed out. We went through two reams of paper as my little portable printer chugged away, turning out Quiet Times and Bible studies for individuals and small groups.



3_Teaching the Word of God to men who are faithful, available and teachable – Everywhere I go I am told that men, particularly young business professionals will not get up early to study god’s word and memorize scripture. Everywhere I go I find men, particularly young business professionals who are willing to get up early, study gods word and memorize scripture. This group of men not only met with me early in the morning but at each meal. They were so eager that the conference director would have to come and disperse us as we would loose track of time in the study of God’s holy Word.



4_Often, as much is caught as is taught – at every conference you will find groups of women crowded around Eleanor with questions concerning the word of god and their roles as wives and mothers. Eleanor’s guiding passage when she ministers to women is Titus 2:3-5 *“Older women ... teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”*



5_Establishing the next generation of husbands, wives and parents in the Word of God – Although we teach on many areas the Family Discipleship seminar and Marriage Covenant seminar continue to be the flagship ministries of our mission trips. On this mission trip to Cameroon scores of couples came to us at each meeting, no matter the subject, to recount how the Marriage Covenant Seminar and Family Discipleship Seminar has ministered to and in many cases saved their marriages. It is a common occurrence during these seminars to hear men shouting out “AMEN!” and “Hallelujah!”.



6_Establishing the wives of pastors and ministry leaders in the Word of God and in their role as helpmates to their husband – In an age when many women speakers, writers and leaders either directly or indirectly (by their own actions and values) teach that the role of wife, helpmate and mother working at home is at best secondary and at worst archaic, women find it refreshing to find a teacher who affirms the biblical standards in these areas. In an age when many gifted Christian wives are encouraged to develop ministries apart from their husband’s ministry if not in direct competition, Eleanor boldly reminds them of the Lord’s injunction that the wife of the minister is created by God for a specific ministry - Genesis 2:18 *“Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him’.”* Can you imagine Sarah saying to Abraham, “Sorry I cannot leave right now, I am busy writing my next book and then I have a whole series of women’s conference’s scheduled. As for that child thing, well it is out of the question, my ministry is just picking up steam and I cannot leave my job and ministry to move and devote myself to your job and ministry.”



7_Fulfilling the Great Commission that all those who repent and believe in the name of their Lord and resurrected Savior Jesus Christ be Baptized – When it comes to this ordinance the word of God could not be more clear *Matthew 28:19-20 " Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* I am dismayed to find certain U.S. based, large para-church ministries who no longer teach believers baptism to their converts and openly question its universal application to the Disciplemaking ministry.



8 & 9_Renewing old friendships – Jean François, my first translator and now a minister and leader in the Navigator ministry has remained in close contact over the last twelve years. When we first met Jean François was an eager young university student and I can remember sitting up late at night with him and Taniform Peters going deep in the Word of God. Now a husband, father and ministry leader Jean François still manifest that eager desire to go deep in the Word of God.



10_ It is fitting that this collage of pictures should end with Taniform Peters and his family - When Kurtis Diederich, the founding missionary of the Navigator work in Cameroon turned it over to the nationals upon his departure after four terms of service it was Peters whom the team chose to lead them. He has done an outstanding job and is a testimony to the effectual truth of 2 Timothy 2:1 & 2 when it comes to establishing leaders for the church and the body of Christ. Well done Kurtis!! Well done Peters!!

I close this e-mail as always with a deep and abiding thankfulness for your sacrificial and effectual prayers which empower and drive this ministry ever forward in the cause of Christ.

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1
Rev. John S. Mahon
Grace Community Int. -

Please allow me to close with dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook that has been especially meaningful to me...

(Psalms 104:33-34 "I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.")

Link to music/tune for this hymn: <http://nethymnal.org/htm/h/t/hthineow.htm>

Have Thine Own Way

Have Thine own way Lord
Have Thine own way
Thou art the Potter I am the clay
Mold me and make me after Thy will
Wile I am waiting yielded and still

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.*

Have Thine own way Lord
Have Thine own way
Wounded and weary help me I pray
Power all power surely is Thine
Touch me and heal me Savior divine

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit 'till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.*

Adelaide Addison Pollard *Born:* November 27, 1862, Bloomfield, Iowa (birth name: Sarah Addison Pollard). *Died:* December 20, 1934, New York City: Pollard believed the Lord wanted her in Africa as a missionary, but she was unable to raise funds to go. In an uncertain state of mind, she attended a prayer meeting, where she heard an elderly woman pray, "It's all right, Lord. It doesn't matter what You bring into our lives, just have Your own way with us." At home that night, much encouraged, she wrote this hymn. Pollard later was able to serve the Lord in Africa. She returned at the outset of WWI and died of a ruptured appendix in New York.)